

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in conjunction with a Request for Reconsideration (RCE) following the final rejection dated November 15, 2005. Further examination on the merits is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. No claims are added by this Amendment, claims 1, 9, 13, 19 and 27 are amended, and no claims are canceled (claims 16, 23-26 and 33 were previously canceled). As a result, claims 1-15, 17-22, 27-32 and 34-39 remain pending in the application. Support for the amendments is found in various portions of the specification, for example, at pages 7-8.

The final Office Action of November 15, 2005 included a rejection of claims 1-5, 8-15, 17-22, 27-32 and 34-39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent 6,466,971 (“Humpleman”) and in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0140090 (“Rezvani”). The Office Action included a rejection of claims 6 and 7 under §103(a) in view of the Humpleman patent and further in view of the Rezvani Patent Application Publication and yet further in view of in view of U.S. Patent 5,973,683 (“Cragun”). These rejections are obviated by the present claim amendments. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments.

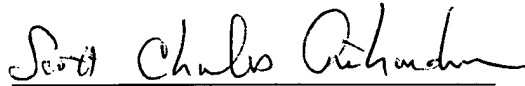
Deposit Account Authorization / Provisional Time Extension Petition

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-0439 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any unresolved issues, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact applicant's representative, Scott Richardson, at telephone number 1.703.739.0573 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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